

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RT 2/09-299371

February 11, 2009

Mr. Leslie T. Rogers, Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration, Region IX
U.S. Department of Transportation
201 Mission Street, Room 2210
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Mr. Rogers:

We would like to formally notify you that the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services, which has been tasked by the citizens of Honolulu to implement a steel wheel on steel rail high-capacity transit system, has selected the Airport Alternative as the preferred alternative for the environmental impact statement process. This selection considers the impacts and benefits of each alternative, input from the public, and the guidance of City Council.

As described in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the Airport Alternative will carry the most passengers with 95,000 daily passengers in 2030. It will provide access to employment centers at Pearl Harbor Naval Base and Honolulu International Airport and will have substantially greater ridership to those areas than the Salt Lake Alternative. It will serve the Salt Lake neighborhood with connecting bus service. The Airport Alternative will have approximately 5 percent fewer parcel acquisitions than the Salt Lake Alternative. It will also result in slightly less air pollution and energy consumption.

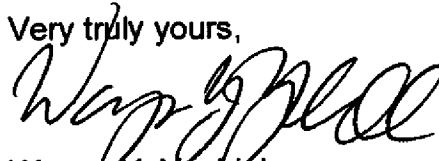
During the public comment period on the Draft EIS, the public overwhelmingly supported the Airport Alternative. Of the comments processed to date that specifically supported one of the alternatives over 75 percent were in support of the Airport Alternative.

Also, the City Council has adopted Resolution 08-261, which identifies that planning, engineering, design and construction should be completed for the Airport alignment. A copy of the resolution is attached for your use.

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We are mindful of the effort FTA has invested in the risk assessment analysis of the project with the Salt Lake alignment. However, now all of efforts need to be shifted to the Airport Alignment and we will be forwarding pertinent information needed for your reassessment shortly.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Y. Yosbioka', written over a horizontal line.

Wayne Y. Yosbioka
Acting Director